



## Commonwealth of Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet

**Steven L. Beshear, Governor**

**Len Peters, Secretary**

**For Immediate Release**

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### **Gov. Beshear Announces Grants to Clean Up Illegal Dumps in 42 Kentucky Counties**

**FRANKFORT, Ky. (Jan. 21, 2010)** – Gov. Steve Beshear today announced that approximately \$3 million in grant funding has been awarded from the Kentucky Pride Fund for cleanup of 240 illegal dumps in 42 counties.

Participating counties agree to provide a 25 percent match for the cleanup of individual illegal open dumps costing less than \$50,000 to clean up. The Energy and Environment Cabinet (EEC) may waive the 25 percent match on any individual illegal open dumps costing more than \$50,000 to remediate.

"Illegal dumping is a major problem that raises significant concerns with regard to safety, property values, and quality of life in our communities. In addition, it is a major economic burden on local government, which is typically responsible for cleaning up dump sites," said Gov. Beshear. "However, significant progress has been made in addressing the illegal dump issue, due in large part to a statewide cleanup and an education campaign by local, state, and federal agencies."

The Division of Waste Management administers the fund. State funding for the illegal open dump grant program comes from a \$1.75 environmental remediation fee for each ton of garbage disposed of at Kentucky municipal solid waste disposal facilities.

The "tipping fee," authorized by the 2002 General Assembly under House Bill 174, is collected quarterly and placed in the Kentucky Pride Fund to help combat illegal dumping and finance the closure of old landfills.

The Kentucky Pride Fund is the first legislated and ongoing source of state funding for dump cleanup. Illegal open dump cleanup has been conducted in Kentucky for several years, using primarily county and federal money.

Senate Bill 50, which became effective in 2006, changed the illegal open dump reimbursement program to a grant program. The legislation also expanded the scope of the fund to address household hazardous waste collection and recycling infrastructure, in addition to illegal dump and old landfill projects.

The following counties received grants: Allen, Ballard, Bath, Bell, Breathitt, Breckinridge, Christian, Clay, Clinton, Crittenden, Cumberland, Edmonson, Elliott, Fleming, Garrard, Green, Hardin, Hart, Hopkins, Lee, Leslie, Letcher, Lewis, Fayette, Logan, Marion, McCracken, Marshall, Martin, Mason, Meade, Montgomery, Nelson Owsley, Rockcastle, Russell, Taylor, Warren Washington, Wayne, Whitley and Wolfe.

For grant amounts, call your local solid waste coordinator or Chris Fitzpatrick at 502-564-6716.

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